

**WEST ST. LOUIS COUNTY DEER TASK FORCE
RESIDENT ATTITUDE SURVEY RESULTS**

**ALL RESIDENTS
2004**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
West St. Louis County Deer Task Force
Resident Attitude Survey Results

The West St. Louis County Deer Task Force conducted a random survey of west county residents in January- March 2004 to examine attitudes toward the deer population and management alternatives. A random sample of 5,606 residents was purchased from a sampling company based on listed addresses and population by zipcode. The survey questions were designed to accomplish several objectives:

- Evaluate attitudes toward the deer population and the extent of damage (landscape damage, deer-vehicle collisions) caused by deer in west county,
- Identify the relative importance of various deer management objectives, and
- Determine the acceptability and perceived consequences of four deer management alternatives.

After accounting for undeliverable addresses and recipients who did not live in St. Louis County, the overall response rate for the survey was 49%, or 2,671 respondents. This response rate is moderately high for a mail survey with no previous contact with recipients.

Attitudes toward deer population and extent of deer damage

Individuals were asked in the survey to indicate their perspective on deer numbers and the extent of deer damage they have experienced. Results indicate:

- A large portion (44%) of overall respondents believe the number of deer in their area is “about right;” 31% believe there are “too many” deer, and only 8% believe there are “too few.”
- While 43% of respondents report never seeing deer on their property, 27% see deer “a few times a year,” 9% see deer “almost every month,” 12% see deer “almost every week,” and 9% see deer on their property “almost every day.”
- Approximately 16% of respondents report they or someone in their immediate family has been in a car that hit a deer in west county during the past 5 years.
- 17% of respondents report they have experienced landscape damage from deer “frequently” over the past year, while 16% report they have had such damage “once or twice,” and nearly 64% have not experienced landscape damage from deer in the past year.

Importance of deer management objectives

Survey respondents rated various objectives of a deer management program, indicating whether they thought a given objective was “not important,” “somewhat important,” or “very important.” According to respondents, the most important objectives of a deer management program, should be to:

- reduce the number of car collisions with deer in the area,
- reduce the risk of diseases associated with deer, such as Lyme disease, and
- maintain a healthy deer herd.

Acceptability and perceived consequences of deer management alternatives

Survey respondents also indicated their preference for four deer management alternatives. These alternatives included three lethal control measures (controlled hunting, sharpshooting, and trap and euthanasia) and one non-lethal measure (damage control, defined as the use of fencing, repellants, and scare tactics to deter deer). Respondents indicated that controlled hunting was the most acceptable method of deer management, followed by sharpshooting, damage control (non-lethal), and then trap and euthanasia:

- 63% of respondents found controlled hunting acceptable, while 27% found it unacceptable.
- 54% found sharpshooting acceptable, while 32% found it unacceptable.
- 49% found damage control (by residents’ use of fencing, repellents, and scare tactics to deter deer) acceptable, while 32% found it unacceptable.
- 47% found trap and euthanasia acceptable, while 39% found it unacceptable.

Analyzing data on individuals’ beliefs about the potential outcomes of deer management alternatives gives insight into why individuals find certain measures acceptable and others unacceptable. Overall, respondents believed that lethal control would...

- decrease the number of deer-vehicle collisions in the area,
- decrease damage by deer to gardens, landscaping, and native plants,
- decrease the risk of disease associated with deer, such as Lyme disease, and
- decrease opportunities to see deer in west county.

Beliefs about the outcomes of non-lethal measures (damage control) also give insight into the acceptability of this alternative. Overall, respondents believed that non-lethal measures would...

- increase or lead to no change in the number of deer-vehicle collisions in the area,
- increase or lead to no change in the risk of diseases associated with deer, such as Lyme disease,

- decrease or lead to no change in the health of the deer herd,
- decrease the satisfaction of residents with deer management in west county, and
- increase or maintain opportunities to see deer in west county.

Conclusions

Results indicate that, despite some variation in results by municipality, several conclusions can be drawn from the survey to help direct deer management decisions for west county:

- Most respondents support either controlled hunting or sharpshooting to control deer in their area.
- Respondents believe that lethal control measures to control deer numbers will accomplish the most important objectives of a management program, to decrease deer-vehicle collisions.
- Non-lethal, or damage control, measures will not accomplish the most important objectives of a deer management program, and many believe employing this alternative will lead to an increase in deer-vehicle collisions and be detrimental to the health of the deer population.

How long have you lived in West St. Louis County?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Less than 1 year	10	0.4
1-5 years	398	14.7
6-15 years	753	27.9
16-25 years	527	19.5
More than 25 years	983	36.4
I do not live in West County	30	1.1
TOTAL	2701	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 19

“All Residents” data: 2701 total respondents - 30 not from West County = 2671 total responses in “All Residents.”

Before receiving this questionnaire had you heard of the West St. Louis County Deer Task Force?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Yes	973	36.5
No	1485	55.8
Not sure	205	7.7
TOTAL	2663	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 8

Think about the number of deer in the area where you live. Indicate whether you think the number of deer is “too few,” “about right,” or “too many.”

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Too few	214	8.2
About right	1161	44.2
Too many	802	30.5
Not sure	450	17.1
TOTAL	2627	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 44

In the past year, how often have you seen deer on the property where you live?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Never	1124	42.5
A few times a year	704	26.6
Almost every month	241	9.1
Almost every week	303	11.5
Almost every day	249	9.4
Not sure	24	0.9
TOTAL	2645	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 26

In the past year, how often have you experienced plant or landscape damage from deer on your property?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Never	1689	63.5
Once or twice	412	15.5
Frequently	450	16.9
Not sure	110	4.1
TOTAL	2661	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 10

In the past *five* years, have you or someone in your immediate family been a driver or a passenger in a car that has hit a deer in West St. Louis County?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Yes	413	15.5
No	2225	83.5
Not sure	28	1.1
TOTAL	2666	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 5

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

Where do you live within West St. Louis County?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Unincorporated	276	10.4
Ballwin	258	9.7
Chesterfield	301	11.3
Clarkson Valley	47	1.8
Creve Coeur	257	9.7
Des Peres	151	5.7
Ellisville	78	2.9
Eureka	217	8.2
Kirkwood	150	5.7
Manchester	124	4.7
Maryland Heights	123	4.6
Town and Country	133	5.0
Wildwood	311	11.7
Valley Park	125	4.7
Other	104	3.9
TOTAL	2655	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 16

How informed are you about deer management in West St. Louis County?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Not at all	709	26.9
Slightly	994	37.7
Moderately	768	29.1
Very	128	4.9
Not sure	37	1.4
TOTAL	2636	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 35

In general, how important is it to you to have a deer management plan in West St. Louis County that reduces the number of car collisions with deer in the area?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Not important	138	5.3
Somewhat important	509	19.5
Very important	1905	72.8
Not sure	65	2.5
TOTAL	2617	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 54

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

In general, how important is it to you to have a deer management plan in West St. Louis County that reduces damage by deer to gardens and landscaping?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Not important	609	23.3
Somewhat important	1145	43.8
Very important	799	30.6
Not sure	61	2.3
TOTAL	2614	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 57

In general, how important is it to have a deer management plan in West St. Louis County that reduces the risk of diseases associated with deer such as Lyme disease?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Not important	212	8.1
Somewhat important	675	25.9
Very important	1635	62.6
Not sure	88	3.4
TOTAL	2610	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 61

In general, how important is it to you to have a deer management plan in West St. Louis County that reduces damage done by deer to native plant species in West County?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Not important	539	20.7
Somewhat important	1178	45.2
Very important	760	29.2
Not sure	127	4.9
TOTAL	2604	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 67

In general, how important is it to you to have a deer management plan in West St. Louis County that maintains a diversity of plants and animals in West County?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Not important	291	11.3
Somewhat important	1062	41.1
Very important	1114	43.1
Not sure	117	4.5
TOTAL	2584	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 87

In general, how important is it to you to have a deer management plan in West St. Louis County that maintains a healthy deer population in West County?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Not important	324	12.4
Somewhat important	792	30.3
Very important	1408	53.9
Not sure	90	3.4
TOTAL	2614	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 57

In general, how important is it to you to have a deer management plan in West St. Louis County that maintains opportunities to see deer in West County?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Not important	622	23.9
Somewhat important	865	33.2
Very important	1044	40.1
Not sure	73	2.8
TOTAL	2604	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 67

In general, how important is it to you to have a deer management plan in West St. Louis County that does not upset local residents?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Not important	665	25.7
Somewhat important	1064	41.2
Very important	664	25.7
Not sure	191	7.4
TOTAL	2584	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 87

In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use controlled hunting for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Very unacceptable	423	16.5
Unacceptable	278	10.9
Not sure	189	7.4
Acceptable	761	29.7
Very acceptable	857	33.5
No opinion	51	2.0
TOTAL	2559	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 112

In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use sharpshooting for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Very unacceptable	487	19.3
Unacceptable	329	13.0
Not sure	289	11.4
Acceptable	716	28.3
Very acceptable	652	25.8
No opinion	56	2.2
TOTAL	2529	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 142

In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use trapping and euthanasia for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Very unacceptable	526	20.8
Unacceptable	450	17.8
Not sure	283	11.2
Acceptable	695	27.5
Very acceptable	513	20.3
No opinion	62	2.5
TOTAL	2529	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 142

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use damage control for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Very unacceptable	384	15.4
Unacceptable	417	16.7
Not sure	344	13.8
Acceptable	691	27.7
Very acceptable	536	21.5
No opinion	122	4.9
TOTAL	2494	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 177

In your opinion, if LETHAL CONTROL (by controlling hunting, sharpshooting, or trapping and euthanasia) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the number of car collisions with deer in the area decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Decrease	1820	70.6
Stay the same	360	14.0
Increase	15	0.6
Not Sure	383	14.9
TOTAL	2578	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 93

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

In your opinion, if LETHAL CONTROL (by controlling hunting, sharpshooting, or trapping and euthanasia) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the health of the deer population in West County decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Decrease	234	9.2
Stay the same	603	23.6
Increase	1112	43.5
Not Sure	608	23.8
TOTAL	2557	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 93

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

In your opinion, if LETHAL CONTROL (by controlling hunting, sharpshooting, or trapping and euthanasia) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the risk of diseases associated with deer, such as Lyme disease, decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Decrease	1425	55.8
Stay the same	544	21.3
Increase	43	1.7
Not Sure	543	21.3
TOTAL	2555	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 116

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

In your opinion, if LETHAL CONTROL (by controlling hunting, sharpshooting, or trapping and euthanasia) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the satisfaction of local residents with deer management in West County decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Decrease	200	7.8
Stay the same	472	18.5
Increase	1173	45.9
Not Sure	713	27.9
TOTAL	2558	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 113

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

In your opinion, if LETHAL CONTROL (by controlling hunting, sharpshooting, or trapping and euthanasia) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the diversity of plants and animals in West County decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Decrease	157	6.2
Stay the same	793	31.3
Increase	910	35.9
Not Sure	677	26.7
TOTAL	2537	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 134

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

In your opinion, if LETHAL CONTROL (by controlling hunting, sharpshooting, or trapping and euthanasia) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the damage by deer to gardens and landscaping decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Decrease	1740	68.3
Stay the same	409	16.1
Increase	49	1.9
Not Sure	348	13.7
TOTAL	2546	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 125

In your opinion, if LETHAL CONTROL (by controlling hunting, sharpshooting, or trapping and euthanasia) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the opportunities to see deer in West County decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Decrease	1300	50.9
Stay the same	808	31.6
Increase	66	2.6
Not Sure	382	15.0
TOTAL	2556	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 115

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

In your opinion, if LETHAL CONTROL (by controlling hunting, sharpshooting, or trapping and euthanasia) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the damage done by deer to native plant species in West County decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Decrease	1517	59.2
Stay the same	478	18.7
Increase	37	1.4
Not Sure	531	20.7
TOTAL	2563	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 108

In your opinion, if DAMAGE CONTROL (by encouraging residents to use fencing, repellants, and scare tactics to control deer damage) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the number of car collisions with deer in the area decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Decrease	197	7.7
Stay the same	1133	44.2
Increase	917	35.8
Not Sure	318	12.4
TOTAL	2565	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 106

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

In your opinion, if DAMAGE CONTROL (by encouraging residents to use fencing, repellants, and scare tactics to control deer damage) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the health of the deer in West County decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Decrease	837	32.8
Stay the same	1060	41.6
Increase	178	7.0
Not Sure	476	18.7
TOTAL	2551	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 120

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

In your opinion, if DAMAGE CONTROL (by encouraging residents to use fencing, repellants, and scare tactics to control deer damage) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the risk of diseases associated with deer, such as Lyme disease, decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Decrease	175	6.9
Stay the same	1086	42.5
Increase	835	32.7
Not Sure	458	17.9
TOTAL	2554	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 117

In your opinion, if DAMAGE CONTROL (by encouraging residents to use fencing, repellants, and scare tactics to control deer damage) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the satisfaction of local residents with deer management in West County decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Decrease	1020	40.0
Stay the same	674	26.4
Increase	262	10.3
Not Sure	596	23.4
TOTAL	2552	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 119

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

In your opinion, if DAMAGE CONTROL (by encouraging residents to use fencing, repellants, and scare tactics to control deer damage) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the diversity of plants and animals in West County decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Decrease	731	28.9
Stay the same	1032	40.8
Increase	203	8.0
Not Sure	562	22.2
TOTAL	2528	99.9

¹Frequency missing = 143

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

In your opinion, if DAMAGE CONTROL (by encouraging residents to use fencing, repellants, and scare tactics to control deer damage) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the damage by deer to gardens and landscaping decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Decrease	632	24.9
Stay the same	748	29.4
Increase	825	32.4
Not Sure	338	13.3
TOTAL	2543	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 128

In your opinion, if DAMAGE CONTROL (by encouraging residents to use fencing, repellants, and scare tactics to control deer damage) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the opportunities to see deer in West County decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Decrease	208	8.2
Stay the same	1172	46.0
Increase	851	33.4
Not Sure	316	12.4
TOTAL	2547	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 124

In your opinion, if DAMAGE CONTROL (by encouraging residents to use fencing, repellants, and scare tactics to control deer damage) is the method selected for managing the deer population in West St. Louis County, would the damage done by deer to native plant species in West County decrease, increase, or stay the same IN THE LONG RUN?

	Frequency ¹	Percent ²
Decrease	264	10.3
Stay the same	909	35.6
Increase	894	35.0
Not Sure	490	19.2
TOTAL	2557	100.1

¹Frequency missing = 114

²Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

What is your age?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
18-24 years	10	0.4
25-39 years	396	15.2
40-54 years	998	38.3
55-69 years	764	29.3
70+ years	439	16.8
TOTAL	2607	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 64

What is your gender?

	Frequency ¹	Percent
Female	938	36.2
Male	1650	63.8
TOTAL	2588	100.0

¹Frequency missing = 83

Cross-tabulation of Q3 (“Think about the number of deer in the area you live. Indicate whether you think the number of deer is “too few,” “about right,” or “too many.”) and Q10A (“In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use controlled hunting for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?”)

Attitude toward hunting→	Unacceptable ¹		Not Sure		Acceptable ²		No Opinion		TOTAL	
Attitude toward deer numbers↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Too Few	13.7	95	9.3	17	5.6	89	4.1	2	8.1	203
About Right	54.0	373	45.1	82	41.3	660	22.4	11	44.7	1126
Too Many	15.9	110	22.0	40	38.5	615	14.3	7	30.7	772
Not Sure	16.4	113	23.6	43	14.6	233	59.2	29	16.6	418
TOTAL	100.0	691	100.0	182	100.0	1597	100.0	49	100.1 ³	2519

Attitude toward deer numbers→	Too few		About right		Too many		Not Sure		TOTAL	
Attitude toward hunting↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Unacceptable ¹	46.8	95	33.1	373	14.2	110	27.0	113	27.4	691
Not Sure	8.4	17	7.3	82	5.2	40	10.3	43	7.2	182
Acceptable ²	43.8	89	58.6	660	79.7	615	55.7	233	63.4	1597
No Opinion	1.0	2	1.0	11	0.9	7	6.9	29	1.9	49
TOTAL	100.0	203	100.0	1126	100.0	772	99.9 ³	418	99.9 ³	2519

¹“Unacceptable” equals the sum of “Very Unacceptable” and “Unacceptable” responses.

²“Acceptable” equals the sum of “Very Acceptable” and “Acceptable” responses.

³Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

⁴Frequency missing = 152

Cross-tabulation of Q3 (“Think about the number of deer in the area you live. Indicate whether you think the number of deer is “too few,” “about right,” or “too many.”) and Q10B (“In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use sharpshooting for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?”)

Attitude toward sharpshooting→	Unacceptable ¹		Not Sure		Acceptable ²		No Opinion		TOTAL	
Attitude toward deer numbers↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Too Few	14.0	112	5.9	17	5.3	72	3.8	2	8.1	203
About Right	53.9	431	45.8	131	40.1	542	24.5	13	44.8	1117
Too Many	16.9	135	23.8	68	40.2	544	18.9	10	30.4	757
Not Sure	15.3	122	24.5	70	14.4	195	52.8	28	16.7	415
TOTAL	100.1 ³	800	100.0	286	100.0	1353	100.0	53	100.0	2492

Attitude toward deer numbers→	Too few		About right		Too many		Not Sure		TOTAL	
Attitude toward sharpshooting↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Unacceptable ¹	55.2	112	38.6	431	17.8	135	29.4	122	32.1	800
Not Sure	8.4	17	11.7	131	9.0	68	16.9	70	11.5	286
Acceptable ²	35.5	72	48.5	542	71.9	544	47.0	195	54.3	1353
No Opinion	1.0	2	1.2	13	1.3	10	6.7	28	2.1	53
TOTAL	100.1 ³	203	100.0	1117	100.0	757	100.0	415	100.0	2492

¹“Unacceptable” equals the sum of “Very Unacceptable” and “Unacceptable” responses.

²“Acceptable” equals the sum of “Very Acceptable” and “Acceptable” responses.

³Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

⁴Frequency missing = 179

Cross-tabulation of Q3 (“Think about the number of deer in the area you live. Indicate whether you think the number of deer is “too few,” “about right,” or “too many.”) and Q10C (“In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use trapping and euthanasia for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?”)

Attitude toward trap & euthanasia→	Unacceptable ¹		Not Sure		Acceptable ²		No Opinion		TOTAL	
Attitude toward deer numbers↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Too Few	13.3	128	6.5	18	4.5	54	6.7	4	8.2	204
About Right	52.1	500	44.1	123	39.6	472	28.3	17	44.6	1112
Too Many	20.8	199	24.4	68	40.6	484	20.0	12	30.6	763
Not Sure	13.8	132	25.1	70	15.3	183	45.0	27	16.7	412
TOTAL	100.0	959	100.1 ³	279	100.0	1193	100.0	60	100.1 ³	2491

Attitude toward deer numbers→	Too few		About right		Too many		Not Sure		TOTAL	
Attitude toward trap & euthanasia↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Unacceptable ¹	62.7	128	45.0	500	26.1	199	32.0	132	38.5	959
Not Sure	8.8	18	11.1	123	8.9	68	17.0	70	11.2	279
Acceptable ²	26.5	54	42.4	472	63.4	484	44.4	183	47.9	1193
No Opinion	2.0	4	1.5	17	1.6	12	6.6	27	2.4	60
TOTAL	100.0	204	100.0	1112	100.0	763	100.0	412	100.0	2491

¹“Unacceptable” equals the sum of “Very Unacceptable” and “Unacceptable” responses.

²“Acceptable” equals the sum of “Very Acceptable” and “Acceptable” responses.

³Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

⁴Frequency missing = 180

Cross-tabulation of Q3 (“Think about the number of deer in the area you live. Indicate whether you think the number of deer is “too few,” “about right,” or “too many.”) and Q10D (“In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use damage control for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?”)

Attitude toward damage control→	Unacceptable ¹		Not Sure		Acceptable ²		No Opinion		TOTAL	
Attitude toward deer numbers↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Too Few	5.3	42	10.3	35	9.4	114	7.6	9	8.1	200
About Right	34.9	275	44.1	150	53.3	645	31.9	38	45.1	1108
Too Many	45.8	361	22.1	75	22.6	274	26.1	31	30.1	741
Not Sure	14.1	111	23.5	80	14.6	177	34.5	41	16.6	409
TOTAL	100.1 ³	789	100.0	340	99.9 ³	1210	100.1 ³	119	99.9 ³	2458

Attitude toward deer numbers→	Too few		About right		Too many		Not Sure		TOTAL	
Attitude toward damage control↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Unacceptable ¹	21.0	42	24.8	275	48.7	361	27.1	111	32.1	789
Not Sure	17.5	35	13.5	150	10.1	75	19.6	80	13.8	340
Acceptable ²	57.0	114	58.2	645	37.0	274	43.3	177	49.2	1210
No Opinion	4.5	9	3.4	38	4.2	31	10.0	41	4.8	119
TOTAL	100.0	200	99.9 ³	1108	100.0	741	100.0	409	99.9 ³	2458

¹“Unacceptable” equals the sum of “Very Unacceptable” and “Unacceptable” responses.

²“Acceptable” equals the sum of “Very Acceptable” and “Acceptable” responses.

³Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

⁴Frequency missing = 213

Cross-tabulation of Q4 (“In the past year, how often have you seen deer on the property where you live?”) and Q10A (“In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use controlled hunting for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?”)

Attitude toward hunting→	Unacceptable ¹		Not Sure		Acceptable ²		No Opinion		TOTAL	
Frequency of seeing deer on property↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Never	44.5	309	45.7	85	39.7	637	68.0	34	42.0	1065
Few times/ year	27.2	189	31.7	59	25.9	416	22.0	11	26.6	675
Almost every month	8.8	61	10.2	19	9.7	156	0.0	0	9.3	236
Almost every week	12.2	85	7.5	14	12.1	194	4.0	2	11.6	295
Almost every day	6.8	47	4.3	8	11.5	185	2.0	1	9.5	241
Not sure	0.6	4	0.5	1	1.0	16	4.0	2	0.9	23
TOTAL	100.1 ³	695	99.9 ³	186	99.9 ³	1604	100.0	50	99.9 ³	2535

Frequency of seeing deer on property→	Never		Few times/year		Almost every month		Almost every week		Almost every day		Not Sure		TOTAL	
Attitude toward hunting↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Unacceptable ¹	29.0	309	28.0	189	25.8	61	28.8	85	19.5	47	17.4	4	27.4	695
Not Sure	8.0	85	8.7	59	8.1	19	4.7	14	3.3	8	4.3	1	7.3	186
Acceptable ²	59.8	637	61.6	416	66.1	156	65.8	194	76.8	185	69.6	16	63.3	1604
No Opinion	3.2	34	1.6	11	0.0	0	0.7	2	0.4	1	8.7	2	2.0	50
TOTAL	100.0	1065	99.9 ³	675	100.0	236	100.0	295	100.0	241	100.0	23	100.0	2535

¹“Unacceptable” equals the sum of “Very Unacceptable” and “Unacceptable” responses.

²“Acceptable” equals the sum of “Very Acceptable” and “Acceptable” responses.

³Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

⁴Frequency missing = 136

Cross-tabulation of Q4 (“In the past year, how often have you seen deer on the property where you live?”) and Q10B (“In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use sharpshooting for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?”)

Attitude toward sharpshooting→	Unacceptable ¹		Not Sure		Acceptable ²		No Opinion		TOTAL	
Frequency of seeing deer on property↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Never	43.2	349	48.1	137	39.2	532	67.3	37	42.1	1055
Few times/ year	26.5	214	29.1	83	26.3	357	20.0	11	26.6	665
Almost every month	10.0	81	8.1	23	9.7	131	0.0	0	9.4	235
Almost every week	11.3	91	9.1	26	12.8	173	1.8	1	11.6	291
Almost every day	8.0	65	4.9	14	11.4	155	5.5	3	9.5	237
Not sure	1.0	8	0.7	2	0.6	8	5.5	3	0.8	21
TOTAL	100.0	808	100.0	285	100.0	1356	100.1 ³	55	100.0	2504

Frequency of seeing deer on property→	Never		Few times/year		Almost every month		Almost every week		Almost every day		Not Sure		TOTAL	
Attitude toward sharpshooting↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Unacceptable ¹	33.1	349	32.2	214	34.5	81	31.3	91	27.4	65	38.1	8	32.3	808
Not Sure	13.0	137	12.5	83	9.8	23	8.9	26	5.9	14	9.5	2	11.4	285
Acceptable ²	50.4	532	53.7	357	55.7	131	59.5	173	65.4	155	38.1	8	54.2	1356
No Opinion	3.5	37	1.7	11	0.0	0	0.3	1	1.3	3	14.3	3	2.2	55
TOTAL	100.0	1055	100.1 ³	665	100.0	235	100.0	291	100.0	237	100.0	21	100.1 ³	2504

¹“Unacceptable” equals the sum of “Very Unacceptable” and “Unacceptable” responses.

²“Acceptable” equals the sum of “Very Acceptable” and “Acceptable” responses.

³Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

⁴Frequency missing = 167

Cross-tabulation of Q4 (“In the past year, how often have you seen deer on the property where you live?”) and Q10C (“In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use trapping and euthanasia for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?”)

Attitude toward trap & euthanasia→	Unacceptable ¹		Not Sure		Acceptable ²		No Opinion		TOTAL	
Frequency of seeing deer on property↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Never	39.8	385	42.1	118	42.7	512	60.0	36	42.0	1051
Few times/ year	28.9	279	30.7	86	24.4	292	25.0	15	26.8	672
Almost every month	8.7	84	10.0	28	10.1	121	1.7	1	9.3	234
Almost every week	12.6	122	9.3	26	12.0	144	1.7	1	11.7	293
Almost every day	9.5	92	6.8	19	9.9	119	5.0	3	9.3	233
Not sure	0.5	5	1.1	3	0.8	10	6.7	4	0.9	22
TOTAL	100.0	967	100.0	280	99.9 ³	1198	100.1 ³	60	100.0	2505

Frequency of seeing deer on property→	Never		Few times/year		Almost every month		Almost every week		Almost every day		Not Sure		TOTAL	
Attitude toward trap & euthanasia↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Unacceptable ¹	29.0	309	28.0	189	25.8	61	28.8	85	19.5	47	17.4	4	27.4	695
Not Sure	8.0	85	8.7	59	8.1	19	4.7	14	3.3	8	4.3	1	7.3	186
Acceptable ²	59.8	637	61.6	416	66.1	156	65.8	194	76.8	185	69.6	16	63.3	1604
No Opinion	3.2	34	1.6	11	0.0	0	0.7	2	0.4	1	8.7	2	2.0	50
TOTAL	100.0	1065	99.9 ³	675	100.0	236	100.0	295	100.0	241	100.0	23	100.0	2535

¹“Unacceptable” equals the sum of “Very Unacceptable” and “Unacceptable” responses.

²“Acceptable” equals the sum of “Very Acceptable” and “Acceptable” responses.

³Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

⁴Frequency missing = 166

Cross-tabulation of Q4 (“In the past year, how often have you seen deer on the property where you live?”) and Q10D (“In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use damage control for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?”)

Attitude toward damage control→	Unacceptable ¹		Not Sure		Acceptable ²		No Opinion		TOTAL	
Frequency of seeing deer on property↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Never	36.3	288	45.1	153	43.0	524	58.3	70	41.9	1035
Few times/ year	26.4	209	33.6	114	26.1	319	21.7	26	27.0	668
Almost every month	10.5	83	7.1	24	9.7	118	5.8	7	9.4	232
Almost every week	12.9	102	8.6	29	12.0	147	5.8	7	11.5	285
Almost every day	13.6	108	3.5	12	8.4	103	6.7	8	9.3	231
Not sure	0.4	3	2.1	7	0.7	9	1.7	2	0.8	21
TOTAL	100.1 ³	793	100.0	339	99.9 ³	1220	100.0	120	99.9 ³	2472

Frequency of seeing deer on property→	Never		Few times/year		Almost every month		Almost every week		Almost every day		Not Sure		TOTAL	
Attitude toward damage control↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Unacceptable ¹	27.8	288	31.3	209	35.8	83	35.8	102	46.8	108	14.3	3	32.1	793
Not Sure	14.8	153	17.1	114	10.3	24	10.2	29	5.2	12	33.3	7	13.7	339
Acceptable ²	50.6	524	47.8	319	50.9	118	51.6	147	44.6	103	42.9	9	49.4	1220
No Opinion	6.8	70	3.9	26	3.0	7	2.5	7	3.5	8	9.5	2	4.9	120
TOTAL	100.0	1035	100.1 ³	668	100.0	232	100.1 ³	285	100.1 ³	231	100.0	21	100.1 ³	2472

¹“Unacceptable” equals the sum of “Very Unacceptable” and “Unacceptable” responses.

²“Acceptable” equals the sum of “Very Acceptable” and “Acceptable” responses.

³Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

⁴Frequency missing = 199

Cross-tabulation of Q5 (“In the past year, how often have you experienced plant or landscape damage from deer on your property?”) and Q10A (“In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use controlled hunting for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?”)

Attitude toward hunting→	Unacceptable ¹		Not Sure		Acceptable ²		No Opinion		TOTAL	
Frequency of deer damage on property↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Never	70.2	491	66.1	125	59.1	952	78.4	40	63.1	1608
Once or twice/ year	15.5	108	13.2	25	16.3	263	3.9	2	15.6	398
Frequently	10.9	76	15.9	30	20.2	326	9.8	5	17.1	437
Not sure	3.4	24	4.8	9	4.4	71	7.8	4	4.2	108
TOTAL	100.0	699	100.0	189	100.0	1612	99.9 ³	51	99.9 ³	2551

Frequency of deer damage on property→	Never		Once or twice per year		Frequently		Not Sure		TOTAL	
Attitude toward hunting↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Unacceptable ¹	30.5	491	27.1	108	17.4	76	22.2	24	27.4	699
Not Sure	7.8	125	6.3	25	6.9	30	8.3	9	7.4	189
Acceptable ²	59.2	952	66.1	263	74.6	326	65.7	71	63.2	1612
No Opinion	2.5	40	0.5	2	1.1	5	3.7	4	2.0	51
TOTAL	100.0	1608	100.0	398	100.0	437	99.9 ³	108	100.0	2551

¹“Unacceptable” equals the sum of “Very Unacceptable” and “Unacceptable” responses.

²“Acceptable” equals the sum of “Very Acceptable” and “Acceptable” responses.

³Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

⁴Frequency missing = 120

Cross-tabulation of Q5 (“In the past year, how often have you experienced plant or landscape damage from deer on your property?”) and Q10B (“In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use sharpshooting for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?”)

Attitude toward sharpshooting→	Unacceptable ¹		Not Sure		Acceptable ²		No Opinion		TOTAL	
Frequency of deer damage on property↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Never	69.5	565	65.7	190	58.0	790	78.6	44	63.0	1589
Once or twice/ year	16.5	134	14.5	42	15.8	215	3.6	2	15.6	393
Frequently	10.9	89	14.2	41	21.9	299	8.9	5	17.2	434
Not sure	3.1	25	5.5	16	4.3	59	8.9	5	4.2	105
TOTAL	100.0	813	99.9 ³	289	100.0	1363	100.0	56	100.0	2521

Frequency of deer damage on property→	Never		Once or twice per year		Frequently		Not Sure		TOTAL	
Attitude toward sharpshooting↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Unacceptable ¹	35.6	565	34.1	134	20.5	89	23.8	25	32.2	813
Not Sure	12.0	190	10.7	42	9.4	41	15.2	16	11.5	289
Acceptable ²	49.7	790	54.7	215	68.9	299	56.2	59	54.1	1363
No Opinion	2.8	44	0.5	2	1.2	5	4.8	5	2.2	56
TOTAL	100.1 ³	1589	100.0	393	100.0	434	100.0	105	100.0	2521

¹“Unacceptable” equals the sum of “Very Unacceptable” and “Unacceptable” responses.

²“Acceptable” equals the sum of “Very Acceptable” and “Acceptable” responses.

³Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

⁴Frequency missing = 150

Cross-tabulation of Q5 (“In the past year, how often have you experienced plant or landscape damage from deer on your property?”) and Q10C (“In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use trapping and euthanasia for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?”)

Attitude toward trap & euthanasia→	Unacceptable ¹		Not Sure		Acceptable ²		No Opinion		TOTAL	
Frequency of deer damage on property↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Never	68.6	667	61.5	174	58.3	702	75.8	47	63.0	1590
Once or twice/ year	15.0	146	15.5	44	16.7	201	6.5	4	15.7	395
Frequently	13.8	134	15.9	45	20.4	246	9.7	6	17.1	431
Not sure	2.6	25	7.1	20	4.6	56	8.1	5	4.2	106
TOTAL	100.0	972	100.0	283	100.0	1205	100.1 ³	62	100.0	2522

Frequency of deer damage on property→	Never		Once or twice per year		Frequently		Not Sure		TOTAL	
Attitude toward trap & euthanasia↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Unacceptable ¹	41.9	667	37.0	146	31.1	134	23.6	25	38.5	972
Not Sure	10.9	174	11.1	44	10.4	45	18.9	20	11.2	283
Acceptable ²	44.2	702	50.9	201	57.1	246	52.8	56	47.8	1205
No Opinion	3.0	47	1.0	4	1.4	6	4.7	5	2.5	62
TOTAL	100.0	1590	100.0	395	100.0	431	100.0	106	100.0	2522

¹“Unacceptable” equals the sum of “Very Unacceptable” and “Unacceptable” responses.

²“Acceptable” equals the sum of “Very Acceptable” and “Acceptable” responses.

³Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

⁴Frequency missing = 149

Cross-tabulation of Q5 (“In the past year, how often have you experienced plant or landscape damage from deer on your property?”) and Q10D (“In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for St. Louis County and/or your municipality to use damage control for the management of the deer population in West St. Louis County?”)

Attitude toward damage control→	Unacceptable ¹		Not Sure		Acceptable ²		No Opinion		TOTAL	
Frequency of deer damage on property↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Never	54.4	435	72.6	249	65.0	796	73.0	89	63.1	1569
Once or twice/year	16.0	128	14.6	50	16.2	198	10.7	13	15.6	389
Frequently	25.0	200	8.5	29	14.9	182	12.3	15	17.1	426
Not sure	4.5	36	4.4	15	3.9	48	4.1	5	4.2	104
TOTAL	99.9 ³	799	100.1 ³	343	100.0	1224	100.1 ³	122	100.0	2488

Frequency of deer damage on property→	Never		Once or twice per year		Frequently		Not Sure		TOTAL	
Attitude toward damage control↓	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq ⁴
Unacceptable ¹	27.7	435	32.9	128	46.9	200	34.6	36	32.1	799
Not Sure	15.9	249	12.9	50	6.8	29	14.4	15	13.8	343
Acceptable ²	50.7	796	50.9	198	42.7	182	46.2	48	49.2	1224
No Opinion	5.7	89	3.3	13	3.5	15	4.8	5	4.9	122
TOTAL	100.0	1569	100.0	389	99.9 ³	426	100.0	104	100.0	2488

¹“Unacceptable” equals the sum of “Very Unacceptable” and “Unacceptable” responses.

²“Acceptable” equals the sum of “Very Acceptable” and “Acceptable” responses.

³Percent may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

⁴Frequency missing = 183

West St. Louis County Deer Task Force

Jeff Mitchell, Chair

Representatives:

Ballwin- Jerry Klein, Code Enforcement Officer

Chesterfield- Wendy Geckeler, Resident

Clarkson Valley- Susan Shea, Alderman

Creve Coeur- Jeff Mitchell, City Council Member

Eureka- Missy Rathmann,
Parks & Recreation Specialist

Kirkwood- Curt Carron, Superintendent of Parks

Maryland Heights- Matt Shatto,
Assistant City Administrator

Town and Country- Joe Williamson, Resident

Valley Park- Mike White, Alderman

Wildwood -Joe Vujinch, Director of Parks & Planning

Beaumont Scout Reservation- Harry Mauchenheimer, Camping
Committee Member

Missouri Department of Conservation- Erin Shank,
Urban Wildlife Biologist

Missouri Department of Natural Resources- Richard Love,
Superintendent of Castlewood State Park

St. Louis County Council- Skip Mange, Councilman

St. Louis County Parks- Dan Bromeier, Parks Supervisor

Task Force Objectives:

1. Examine the deer population, the problems caused by high deer densities in West St. Louis County, the complicating issues of suburban deer management, and West County residents' attitudes toward deer and deer management.
2. Cooperatively produce a final report with findings and recommendations for deer management in West St. Louis County.

Preliminary Report and Upcoming Public Forums:

The Task Force is hosting two public forums to hear comment on the Task Force Preliminary Report. All are encouraged to attend and review the report, which is available on the web at <http://www.mdc.missouri.gov/areas/stlouis/news/2004/20041026.htm>

Public forums dates and locations:

Wednesday, January 26, 2005, 7pm at Queeny Park in the Warming Room.

Thursday, February 10, 2005, 7pm at Chesterfield City Hall.

For more information, contact Erin Shank at 314-301-1506 ext. 2239